

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 10, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Reverend Joan Mier – Peace of United Church of Christ

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Goralczyk and Mrs. Barron were absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Pettit announced recognition of Carol Miano whom was named on the prestigious Notables Lists. Mrs. Miano is involved in numerous programs and events within the community. Recognition on a Notables List highlights individuals who have become worthy of attention or notice in their local communities through either career success, demonstration of a high level of personal integrity, worthwhile volunteer contributions or other considerations. Notables Lists are intended to celebrate excellence, achievement, altruism, newsworthiness and, above all, notability. The Town Council congratulated Mrs. Miano.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated March 10, 2015.

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2015. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Miano. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann mentioned two water line breaks that occurred in Ward 1. The residents did not receive any communication of a water boil. Mr. Spann expressed his concerns and feels this is an important issue in which residents should be notified. Mr. Spann along with Mr. Spires will check into a resolution for this matter.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Miano had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Widing had no report. Mrs. Miano shared information from a letter by Commander Kijurna to Chief Petruch in regards to accommodation case #2015-0149 which provided recognition for outstanding police work that was performed by Sergeant Gurgevich and Sergeant Cuttino. The officers quickly responded to a possible burglary in progress, called in by a neighbor. Upon arrival the officers escorted an elderly homeowner safely out of the residence. The officers then entered the residence and took the suspect into custody, who was later charged with burglary. The efforts of these two veteran sergeants stopped a burglary in progress and prevented possible harm to an elderly homeowner. Both officers are commended for a job well done and will receive a level 2 accommodation.

Mrs. Miano went on to share information in regards to another accommodation case #2015-0122 which provided recognition for outstanding police work that was performed by Officer Miskus and Officer Jones. The officers quickly responded to a possible burglary in progress, called in by a neighbor. The officers proceeded to the back yard at which time the suspect fled on foot. The suspect was quickly taken into custody, charged with burglary and resisting law enforcement. Officer Jones did suffer an ankle injury during the pursuit. A burglary in progress was prevented by the incredibly quick response time by these officers. This is another fine example of how MPD officers set aside their own personal health and safety to protect the citizens of Merrillville. Both officers are commended for a job well done and will receive a level 2 accommodation for their efforts in this case.

Chief Petruch responded to both letters by thanking all of the officers for such a great and outstanding job.

Mr. Guernsey pointed out that in both of the referenced cases the police were notified by neighbors who were watching out for their neighbors. He encouraged the community to be vigilant and not to hesitate to contact the police. A discussion followed regarding the importance of the neighborhood/crime watch program.

Chief Yerga announced the St. Baldrick's fundraiser will be on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at the 73rd Ave Fire Station. Last year over \$10,000 was raised for childhood cancer research. The goal this year will be to exceed that amount. Everyone is welcome to attend between 9 a.m. & 1 p.m. Some Merrillville fire fighters as well as other volunteers will be shaving their head for the cause.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mrs. Miano had no report. Ms. Orlich stated the second senior meeting will take place on Friday, March 13, 2015. The guest speaker will be Jessica Brown from Northwest Community Action Agency. There will be a free lunch served compliments of Olive Garden restaurant. Seniors popcorn and a movie will be on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 1:00. The movie will be The Judge. The Park Department hired a recreation coordinator who brings 29 years of experience.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Goralczyk was absent, no report. In Matt Lake's absence, Mr. Hardaway read the Stormwater report dated March 10, 2015. The 2015 Rain Barrel Program will begin next week. Rain barrels are available through Upcycle Products for \$56.50. Information regarding the program will be in the town newsletter & website as well as the newspaper. Brochures will also be available at each of the town departments. The pick-up date will be Thursday, April 30, 2015 at Stormwater Resource center from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Residents can contact the Stormwater office with any questions.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Miano had no report. Mr. Hardaway congratulated the Merrillville Girls Basketball Team for winning the Regionals. They are to be commended for the high level of professionalism they displayed during this season.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Mr. Hardaway announced a workshop to be held Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 9 a.m. Any individual interested in rehabbing homes in the Town of Merrillville are invited to attend. The purpose of the workshop is to listen to what they have to offer and determine if the town can benefit from their services.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 15-07: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds of the town to procure funds to be applied to the costs of financing certain road improvements and other infrastructure projects throughout the town, together with expenses incidental thereto, including expenses in connection with the issuance of the bonds, and other related matters. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Widing. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 15-08: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, fixing the Parks non-reverting program fees for the year 2015. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Miano. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 15-03: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the 2014 Construction BAN Fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Miano made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 15-04: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Redevelopment Bond of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 15-05: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the GO Bond of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 15-06: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Parks General Fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Hardaway stated that Mrs. Gregor received a call from a resident in regards to a property located at 336 W 56th Ave. The resident was concerned the location was being used as a serenity home. Mr. Hardaway visited the site and was told that it was a group home for women. Mr. Hardaway requested that Mr. Bushemi send a letter to Mark Fletcher, residential director of ARC Bridges group, regarding a response in writing as to the affiliation of the residence and clarification as to what type of license is held. Mr. Bushemi stated he would take care of this request immediately.

Mr. Pettit along with coordination of Mr. Spires are arranging for a photographer to come and take pictures of the council as it is the last term of office. Mr. Pettit mentioned this will take place at the next Town Council meeting and asked the council members to plan and dress for the occasion.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**State Rep. Vernon G. Smith Public Forum, Saturday,
March 14, 2015 at noon.**
Plan Commission meeting, March 17, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
Environmental Resource Committee meeting, March 19, 2015
at 2:00 p.m.
Town Council Workshop, March 18, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
Town Council meeting, March 24, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
RDC meeting, March 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Spann and seconded by Mrs. Miano.

Tom Goralczyk, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer